

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. - 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of authenticating a digital still image captured using a digital image capture device, comprising the steps of:

- transmitting one of signature data from a plurality of different signature data from a remote location to the digital image capture device;
- associating an image identification with the captured digital still image;
- applying the one signature data to the captured digital still image within the image capture device to produce an authentication signature ~~without image content~~ representative of the captured digital still image;
- associating the authentication signature ~~without image content~~ with the image identification;
- transmitting the authentication signature ~~without image content~~ to the remote location;
- storing the one signature data, authentication signature ~~without image data~~, and image identification at the remote location; wherein said captured digital still image is not transmitted to or stored at said remote location;
- initiating an authentication request from an authentication location remote from the remote location, the digital still image to be authenticated being disposed at the authentication location;
- transmitting the one signature data to the authentication location;
- transmitting the digital still image to be authenticated to the authentication location;
- at the authentication location, applying the one signature data to the digital still image to be authenticated ~~at the authentication location~~ to produce a verification signature ~~without image content~~;

transmitting the verification signature ~~without image content~~ to the remote location; and

comparing, at the remote location, the authentication signature ~~without image content~~ with the verification signature ~~without image content~~ to determine the authentication of the transmitted digital still image.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising the step of producing an authentication message indicative of the authentication of the transmitted digital still image.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 21, wherein the signature data from the remote location is transmitted to the digital image capture device prior to the capture of the digital still image.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 21, wherein the authentication location is a digital image capture device or a computer.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising the step of transmitting a message indicative of receipt of the authentication signature by the remote location.

27. - 43. (Canceled )